



New Animal Shelter

FOR UXBRIDGE-SCUGOG

Minutes

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2022 6:00 pm

Location: hybrid - Virtual Teams Call & on-site Uxbridge Township Office

Call to Order and Welcome 6:00 pm (Tara Rosen, President)

Introduction of Directors (Tara Rosen)

Tara Rosen, President

Amy Stevenson, Vice-President

Mel Diebel, Treasurer

Susan Long, Secretary (absent)

Buck Sully (via Teams)

Paul Bussiere

Opening Remarks (Tara Rosen)

Financial Report From NASUS Treasurer (Mel Diebel)

Please see the attached Financial Statement and Notice to Reader report prepared by BDO Uxbridge.

A few highlights on our activities during 2021 financial year:

- NASUS raised just under \$9k during 2021; earning net receipts after costs of over \$8k.
- Costs included: accounting fees for preparation and filing of our annual report, Quickbooks licensing fees, rental of a Post Office Box and merchant fees charged on donations received. These costs were partially offset by a catch-up in HST rebate claims of \$2k received during the year.
- Over the last couple years we have shifted to a more passive phase of fundraising as the Township explores potential partnerships to help us get the shelter build that we want and for the animals and people of Uxbridge and Scugog. Despite this, we continue to collect money on behalf of the shelter & will do so until the shelter is done.
- At the end of 2021, the organization maintained a bank balance of almost \$69k and owed just over \$1k for normal course expenses.
- Our latest filed Registered Charity Information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5k3ckur> under "Quick View".

A Timeline of This Project and Update on Current Status as at December 2022:

The New Animal Shelter for Uxbridge-Scugog organization was formed as a registered charity in 2011 to raise funds to build a new facility to care for lost, abandoned and neglected animals within the two townships. The original fundraising target for this project was \$1 million with the goal of building a large and modern facility to serve the community for at least 50 years.

In 2017, the Board of Directors of NASUS (“the Board”) presented a build plan to the Township of Uxbridge. This plan would have seen NASUS and the Townships work with George Brown College to start building the shelter that year using the money raised to date of \$1.1 million and potential bridge funding of \$300k from each of Uxbridge and Scugog. The Township of Uxbridge (“the Township”) voted against this option, severing the involvement of George Brown, and stated that they would be “relieving NASUS’ build committee of the burden [of planning and managing the build], leaving NASUS to concentrate on fund-raising”. Following this decision, the Board signed a Gift Agreement with the Township of Uxbridge and transferred the bulk of its assets, approximately \$652k in cash & previously deposited funds and costs, to the Township in preparation for the shelter build.

Per both NASUS’ gift agreement and the agreement between the Townships of Scugog and Uxbridge, the responsibility for the shelter build (including the planning, scheduling and oversight of the build) has been held by the Township of Uxbridge since that time.

In 2018, as NASUS continued to receive donations towards this project, an additional \$50k was transferred to the Township of Uxbridge. At that time the Board elected to retain a minor balance in their accounts to cover certain shelter-related projects, upcoming costs with respect to professional fees and other amounts related to the wind-down of the NASUS registered organization.

To-date NASUS has transferred over \$700k (approximately \$130k over our expected contribution of \$570k) to the Township of Uxbridge. Both the Township of Uxbridge and the Township of Scugog have pledged \$540k each towards the joint shelter build. The total budget for the build, based on the expected NASUS contribution of \$570k, was set at \$1.65m. The Township of Uxbridge has since indicated that this budget is insufficient and should be raised. The Townships are unwilling to commit additional funds for the build and have declared the build delayed indefinitely.

In 2019, following the Townships’ announcement of the pause of the shelter build, the Board elected to discontinue transfers of capital to the Township until a build plan and timetable is provided. NASUS has also elected to stop active fundraising.

Since the beginning, NASUS has been 100 percent volunteer-run; with over 300 volunteers giving over 21,000 hours towards over 500 fundraising campaigns. These figures are exclusive of community events and fundraising activities done independently from NASUS. These independent activities would likely represent thousands of additional hours invested into this project by our communities.

To date NASUS has officially raised over \$1 million dollars before event & operating costs (Over \$800 thousand after these costs). These totals are exclusive of the \$540 thousand dollars that each of the Townships of Uxbridge and Scugog have pledged towards this project. To date, NASUS has transferred over \$700k to the Township of Uxbridge. NASUS currently maintains a bank balance of over \$77k in additional donations for use towards the shelter build, continuing costs for NASUS and the eventual wind-down of the NASUS organization.

The Township of Uxbridge has retained all unspent funds from the \$700k transferred to them by NASUS and remains responsible for all aspects of the planning, scheduling, and management of the shelter build. At last update, the Township’s Animal Shelter Build Fund showed a current balance of \$588 thousand.

Please see attached PDF of Financial Report

Q&A With the Township (Debbie Leroux in person and Kristi Honey via Teams)

There was a detailed question and answer period covering the funds raised, timeline of project, potential partners and actions that can be undertaken while waiting for the new shelter to be built.

Tara Rosen thanked everyone for attending and for their support over the years.

A Message from NASUS President (Tara Rosen)

Since our last AGM, we as a board have signed an NDA with the township to learn about a possible partner for the shelter. The township has also been meeting with NASUS quarterly to give us any updates. At the last meeting between myself, Debbie and Kristi in November, I was told although it may be aggressive, it could be possible to get the shelter moving in 2023.

Both I and my fellow Board members still remain committed to seeing this project through. Since This is not a commitment solely borne of duty to our donors; though that is definitely a large part of our determination to ensure that the shelter is built. We do not take lightly the investment that the citizens, organizations and businesses of Uxbridge and Scugog have made to this shelter by volunteering, promoting and donating towards its build. Every one of them deserves to see their contributions validated by walking through the door of the new shelter once it is built. Our commitment, and that of many of our volunteers and supporters, is also borne of our collective drive to help the animals of Uxbridge and Scugog. This drive is why we are all still here – fighting for our new shelter. It is why our Board members have collectively given thousands of hours of our lives and thousands of dollars of our hard-earned money to this project. No one wants this shelter to be built more than us.

In the meantime, please note that all of your donations (and ours) cannot be spent on anything other than the shelter build. All monies transferred to the Township were secured in an interest-bearing account dedicated to this project. As preliminary work commenced on the planning, some of those funds were spent on things like architecture fees, surveys, contractor deposits, etc... the remainder is still in that account earning interest. These funds and the ones currently retained by NASUS cannot be spent on anything other than the shelter build project, fundraising and the basic requirements of maintaining registered charitable status. A summary of NASUS' annual spending can be examined via our annual registered charity filings on the Canada Revenue Agency website. During our Annual General Meeting our Treasurer provides additional detail (please see the summary above for 2021), the most recently filed year-end).

Once the township has found a partner, you better believe the excitement will begin again and we will be exploring additional fundraising ideas such as memorial benches, naming policies and the sale of bricks or plaques towards the cost of the build. Only at that time, NASUS will look to transfer its remaining funds to the project account at the township.

As President of NASUS, and every member of the NASUS Board believe the best thing for our townships and our animals is to see a new shelter built, just like Ginger Jackson saw twelve years ago when she started this project. Our existing shelter is way too small, outdated, and unsafe water. Together, we can do this!

Meeting Adjourned – approximately 6:45pm